

# News from the FPPC

California Fair Political Practices Commission  
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## **FPPC Fines Sen. Migden \$350,000 for 89 Violations** ***Largest penalty of state official in FPPC history***

The Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), the independent state agency charged with investigating violations of campaign laws, today fined **Senator Carole Migden**, \$350,000 for 89 violations of the Political Reform Act, of which \$100,000 was paid from her personal funds. The charges include the personal use of campaign funds, inaccurate disclosure of cash payments and receipts, and numerous other recordkeeping and reporting violations.

"Senator Migden's track record has shown her complete disdain for the Political Reform Act," said Commission Chairman Ross Johnson. "This \$350,000 fine is the largest ever imposed upon an elected state official in the history of the FPPC and it is a clear indication that the Commission will vigorously pursue blatant violations of the Political Reform Act."

The violations stemmed from an investigation of the activities surrounding three of Senator Migden's controlled committees from 2003 through 2007. The Carole Migden Leadership Committee (Board of Equalization) was fined \$26,000 for six violations, the Friends of Carole Migden committee (Senate) was fined \$110,000 for 22 counts and the Re-Elect Senator Carole Migden committee (Senate) was fined \$209,000 for 61 counts. Senator Migden, her treasurer Roger Sanders, and assistant Eric Potashner are each liable for the fine.

At the hearing, Chairman Johnson pointed out that "Senator Migden's admissions of 89 violations are separate from her illegal use of surplus campaign funds dating back to her 2000 Assembly race, which is the subject of a lawsuit the senator has brought against the commission in federal court."

During the enforcement division's months-long investigation, it was determined that Senator Migden illegally transferred approximately \$1 million of surplus campaign funds and had already spent hundreds of thousands of dollars. Senator Migden was told to cease using this money and she then filed suit against the FPPC in an effort to gain access to the unspent \$647,000. The federal lawsuit will be heard in Sacramento on April 1, 2008.

"We will now focus our attention on that lawsuit and Senator Migden's numerous other serious and deceitful violations of California law," said Chairman Johnson, "We will fight her all the way."

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